

- ART. XXV.—1. *Sixth Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Insane Hospital, (Augusta, Maine,) 1845.*  
 2. *The Annual Report of the Eastern Asylum, in the city of Williamsburg, Virginia, for 1844.*  
 3. *Report of the Committee of Regents, of the Physician, and of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina, for 1842.*  
 4. *Report of the Committee on the Lunatic Asylum (of South Carolina), including the reports of the Regents, Superintendent and Physician, 1845.*  
 5. *The Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Officers of the Retreat for the Insane, at Hartford, Connecticut, May 1846.*  
 6. *Report of the Maryland Hospital (for the Insane,) for the year 1845.*  
 7. *Report of the Trustees and Superintendent of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, June 1846.*

1. The Report of the Hospital for the Insane at Augusta, for the past year, was prepared by Dr. James Bates, the successor of Dr. Ray, as Medical Superintendent of that Institution. It manifests ability, and an interest in the investigation of Insanity. The Statistics for the year are as follows, viz.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients in Hospital, Nov. 30, 1844	50	26	76
Admitted during the year	50	49	99
Whole number for the year	100	75	175
Discharged (including deaths)	45	45	90
Remaining Nov. 30, 1845	55	30	85
Of those discharged there were cured	21	17	38
“ “ “ died	5	2	7

*Causes of Death.*—Old age 1, phthisis pulmonalis 2, intestinal hemorrhage 1, suicide 1, suicidal wound inflicted before admission 1, not stated 1.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whole number of patients since opening of Hospital Oct. 14, 1840	276	210	486
Discharged (including deaths)	213	162	375
Of whom there were cured			171
“ “ died	18	8	26
<i>Civil Condition</i>			
Married	122	117	239
Single	137	76	213
Widowed	17	17	34

The average time spent in the Hospital by the 171 patients who were discharged cured, was 140 days. Fifty-six cases believed to be curable, were prematurely removed from the institution. “This,” says Dr. B., “is one of the evils which it has been thought most prudent not to remedy, by stipulating a period, before which patients should not be removed uncured, until the house should be filled.

“Our present situation will not only justify, but I think imperatively demands the correction of this evil.

“Before closing this branch of the subject, it may be proper to observe, that from no source does a well-regulated asylum for the insane suffer so much in its reputation, as from the false representations of patients prematurely removed.

“It is peculiarly interesting and gratifying to observe the kind feelings and gratitude expressed by those who leave the hospital perfectly cured, towards those who have had the charge of them; whereas those who go away still insane, remember with bitterness every restraint and denial they have experienced.

“All this would be harmless, but for the morbid sympathy which induces some persons to place more reliance on the evil reports of an insane man, than the truth from the best citizen in the community.”

“Of 486 admissions, 211 are represented by their friends as having insane ancestry, or blood relatives in that condition.

“When we add to these, foreigners and others concerning whom little informa-

tion can be obtained, there can be little doubt that more than one-half are hereditarily predisposed to that state of brain of which insanity is a symptom."

*Ages at which insanity commenced.* Ten to twenty years 85, twenty to thirty 168, thirty to forty 110, forty to fifty 72, fifty to sixty 35, sixty to seventy 11, seventy to eighty 5.

Taking these items, and the data afforded by the last census of the state of Maine as the elements of a calculation, Dr. B. arrives at the conclusion, that the greatest proportion of men attacked with insanity is between the ages of 30 and 40 years, and that of women between 20 and 30. He also infers that "males under 20 furnish a fearful proportion," and that in both early and advanced life men are more subject to the disease than women.

The people of Maine have been slow to take advantage of the means afforded by this hospital for the cure of their insane. From the records of the past year, as embodied in this report, it is evident that there is an increasing appreciation of the value of the institution, and the time is not far distant when all its apartments will be constantly occupied.

2. During the year 1844, the Eastern Asylum of Virginia was enlarged by the construction of another wing. This addition, while it increases the extent of accommodations, affords very satisfactory facilities for the classification of the patients. The report before us opens with a very pretty coloured lithographic view of the asylum.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients Jan. 1, 1844	62	47	109
Admitted during the year	17	24	41
Whole number	79	71	150
Discharged during the year	7	5	12
Died	3	3	6
Remaining Dec. 31, 1844	69	63	132

The condition of the patients discharged is not mentioned in the report.

The Eastern Asylum was the first establishment in the country, devoted exclusively to the treatment of the insane. It went into operation prior to the American Revolution. During the whole period of its existence, to the time of the preparation of this report, the number of patients admitted was 851, of whom 539 were males, and 312 females. In respect to seasons, the largest number of admissions was in summer, the next in autumn, and the smallest in spring.

The report of Dr. Galt contains a large number of valuable and interesting facts in relation to insanity, exhibiting great industry on the part of its author, and an extensive acquaintance with the divers authorities upon the disease.

3. It is but recently that we have been enabled to lay our hand upon any document relating to the asylum in Columbia, South Carolina. The pamphlet now before us includes the several reports of the managers and officers, together with the laws for the government of the institution.

The report of the managers is a well-written essay upon the condition of asylums in general, the curability of the insane, and the necessities of the particular institution under their care. It however contains nothing important in a medical point of view, which has not heretofore been published in this journal. The report of the physician, Dr. Frerevant, is chiefly devoted to the difficulties under which the asylum has laboured, and to its wants in order to place it upon an equality with some of the other institutions in the country.

The following remarks are well worthy of notice. "When a lunatic is kept at home, and subjected for five or six months to the care of the family physician, when everything that his skill (with a perfect knowledge of the constitution, habits, &c. of the patient) could direct has been done, then to bring him to the asylum, and expect a cure to be immediately effected, is asking more than justice or reason can demand. But is it right that the patient should be placed under the care of those who are unaccustomed to the attendance on lunatics? How often is the case aggravated, either by the foolish indulgence of friends, the restraints of gross ignorance, or the injudicious treatment of the medical adviser! I trust I shall not be deemed disrespectful to my brother physicians when I say, that in no set of diseases are they more at fault than in those of the mind. It falls to the lot

of but few to be called to attend the insane, and when such a case occurs, their own experience offers no guide, and they must follow the directions of others. How various and conflicting are the directions which they there meet! Talk of madness, and you have the lancet, drastic cathartics, emetics, &c. &c., instantly presented, and lamentable are the effects constantly produced by their injudicious use. There is not a year that I do not see constitutions shattered, and the recuperative energies of the brain entirely destroyed. Case after case of imbecility is the result of injudicious bleeding.

"Lunatics generally do not require and will not bear very active treatment; and he who prescribes merely because he has a lunatic under his care, is more apt to go wrong than right, if his attention has not been fully directed to that particular species of disease."

"When I took charge of this institution," says Dr. T., "there were 53 inmates; in the last seven years we have received 153, making in all 206; of this number, 83 have been cured and removed much improved, and 54 have died. It must be borne in mind that very many of the fatal cases were in a hopeless situation when they entered; four died in 48 hours after they came; several never rose from the beds in which they were placed, and many sunk from chronic disease of the lungs and bowels, engendered by exposure during their wanderings, or the want of attention when confined in the jails and workhouses; 20 were epileptics, 10 eloped, 6 committed suicide."

4. The report for 1844-5 of the asylum at Columbia is very brief. The statistics for the year are as follows:

Number of patients Nov. 5, 1844	-	-	-	-	72
Admitted during the year	-	-	-	-	23
Whole number during the year	-	-	-	-	95
Discharged, 6 deaths included	-	-	-	-	24
Remaining, Nov. 5, 1845	-	-	-	-	71
Of those discharged, there were cured	-	-	-	-	13

*Causes of death.* Typhus fever 1, epilepsy 1, apoplexy 1, consumption 1, found dead, supposed apoplexy, 1, not stated 1.

The legislature of the state having granted permission for "religious exercises to be carried on and conducted at the institution," a chaplain was employed during the year, and Dr. Trezevant expresses himself "gratified with the result."

5. During the past two years very extensive additions and improvements have been made at the Hartford Retreat. Among these, are two new wings, each 120 feet long by 36 wide, together with "connecting wings," by which the former are attached to the old building. These "have effected such a change," says Dr. BUTLER, "both in the external appearance and internal arrangements and accommodations of the Retreat, that it would be hardly recognized by those who have not watched, from step to step, their progress. They in fact constitute a new era in the history of the institution. Its capacity for the accommodation of patients has been doubled, and the conveniences and appliances for successful treatment, as well as the arrangements for their more comfortable and pleasant classification, have increased in no less a ratio.

"Our means of classification have been greatly improved. We are enabled to make eight distinct classes, and, if necessary, subdivide even these, so that the social affinities of all may be consulted, and such influences associated as will have the most happy action and reaction upon each other."

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients in the Retreat, April 1, 1845	53	50	103
" admitted during the year	56	72	128
Whole number during the year	109	122	231
Discharged, deaths included	55	60	115
Remaining April 1, 1846	53	63	116
Of those discharged, there were cured	24	31	55
Died	5	11	16

"The premature removal of patients from the Retreat, continues to be to us a fruitful source of anxiety and regret, and to them fearful and cruel in its results. Of

those discharged 'improved,' and 'much improved' several were rapidly convalescing. Contrary to our advice and earnest expostulation they were removed, and the results in most cases have justified our worst apprehensions; several remaining in a weak, nervous condition, and others relapsing into insanity. A recital of a few cases which have been recommitted to our care may prove instructive, and lead others to avoid an error always serious and often fatal in its consequences.

"CASE I.—Admitted in a most wretched state of melancholia, unwilling to speak, move or make any effort, and negligent of the calls of nature—under treatment became better, would talk, laugh, sing and walk about, and was rapidly recovering his health. On his being removed, contrary to our wishes and advice, he immediately relapsed, and was, the last we heard of him, a hopeless maniac, caged up like a wild beast.

"CASE II.—Admitted a violent maniac, noisy, wilful and dangerous, and from the nature of the cause almost hopeless—became much better, and just as we were rejoicing over the unexpected prospect of recovery, was removed on suspicion that pecuniary considerations influenced our advice. In a few months was returned to us more wretched, noisy and ungovernable than ever. This case may admit of alleviation, but recovery is hopeless."

Two other similar cases are related in the report.

The whole number of patients admitted since the retreat was opened, April 1st 1824, is 1560. Of these 846 recovered and 120 died.

The causes of death of 51 patients, being all that have died during the past five years, are as follows: viz., epilepsy 1, apoplexy 5, phthisis 4, old age 4, injury 1, fever 3, psoas abscess 1, disease of the brain 5, internal hemorrhage 1, marasmus 2, fracture of thigh 1, general debility 4, general paralysis 4, exhaustion 7, inflammation of bowels 2, disease of lungs 3, suicide 3.

The report contains many valuable tables, illustrative of particular points relating to insanity. In discussing the causes of mental disorder in the United States, Dr. Butler makes the following very sensible remarks:

"As a community we have too little recreation, too little regard for the refreshing and invigorating influences of social intercourse; and far too little time is given to the enjoyment of literary and scientific pursuits. Our devotion to business of every kind, is too long continued and too absorbing. We rise early and set up late, and eat the bread of carefulness, and eat it hastily, that we may carry out those plans of advancement which are so engrossing. The deep traces of care and anxious thought are written on the brow, and their corroding influences consume not only the elasticity of our frame, but, in too many instances, it is to be feared, the better feelings of the heart. These influences pervade society in this country more than any other on the globe. They draw within their vortex many who would gladly escape them, and, increasing with the flood-tide of national prosperity, threaten to engulf the better feelings and sympathies of the nation in the maelstrom of ambition and gain. Remonstrating one day with an intelligent young merchant on the folly and danger of devoting himself so exclusively to his business, to the neglect of exercise and the enjoyments of the family circle, he confessed that it was wrong, but pleaded that the eager competition that existed around him required the devotion of all his time and energies to sustain his character as a business man. 'I never allow myself more than five minutes for any meal,' said another, who in one month was a raving maniac."

6. The Maryland Hospital (for the Insane), as appears from the report of Dr. Fisher, is in a flourishing condition, the number of patients during 1845 having exceeded by 33 that of any former year. Exclusive of cases of mania-à-potu, which, according to Dr. F., are always omitted in his reports, the statistics are as follows, viz:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients Jan. 1, 1845	52	35	87
" admitted during the year	54	37	91
Whole number	106	72	178
Discharged inclusive of deaths	49	20	69
Remaining Dec. 31, 1845	57	52	109
Of those discharged there were cured	27	13	40
Died	8	2	10

*Causes of death.*—Apoplexy 2, paralysis 2, chronic diarrhœa 1, pulmonary consumption 1, marasmus 1, epilepsy 1, old age 1, exhaustion from long-continued excitement 1.

The whole number of patients during the eight years, from 1838 to 1845, inclusive, is 644. Of these, 305 were cured and 53 died.

Dr. Fisher, like the physicians of most of the American asylums, in reference to their respective institutions, complains of the premature removal of patients. In the hope of assisting to overcome this evil, we quote his remarks upon the subject, as we have already quoted the remarks of others.

"The premature removal from the institution of convalescents is an evil which we, not unfrequently, have to deplore. In some instances they are, unfortunately, removed in consequence of the inability of the friends to support them any longer in the hospital; but in too many other instances, from the friends acting upon their own judgment of the condition of the patient, in opposition to the judgment and advice of the physician. They, perhaps, pay a short visit to the patient, during which they find him free from illusion, composed, cheerful, rational; they learn that he has been for some time employing himself steadily and usefully, and they immediately conclude, as they are unprepared to distinguish between convalescence and perfect recovery, that he is well enough to go home, and frequently persist in removing him. But it often happens that a few days or weeks only are sufficient to convince them of their error. The company and exciting conversation of old friends, and the revival of old associations, prove too much for the mind in its weakened state, and soon the derangement returns, perhaps with more intensity than ever. 'If,' says Dr. Ray, 'we are entitled to any confidence at all, we claim it in regard to our opinions on this point. If the friends are better judges than we are as to the proper time for removing a patient, then are they also more competent to direct the management of the case in its previous stages. Since, however, the latter are immediately entrusted to our management, what can be more inconsistent or absurd than the idea that in the latter stage of the disease, no further dependence need be placed on our judgment. The fact is, that the convalescent stage is that in which there is most liability to mistake, and in nothing is the judgment of the physician more closely exercised, than in determining where convalescence ends and perfect recovery is established. On a point so important and delicate as this, we conceive that our ampler means of information render our opinion worthy of some consideration. If incorrect, it can, at the worst, merely occasion a few days or weeks unnecessary detention, and every one must know how much less an evil it is to keep a patient too long than to remove him too soon."

After a connection with the Maryland Hospital during a term of ten years, a decennium of untiring industry in his vocation, and of ardent devotion to his duties, Dr. Fisher, in this report, resigns his situation. He has already left the institution, and been succeeded by Professor Fonerden, a gentleman well known for his attainments, not only in medical, but in general science.

7. Dr. CHANDLER having retired from the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, his place is supplied by Dr. Andrew McFarland, whose name is appended to this, the fourth annual report of the institution.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients in asylum May 31, 1845	39	37	76
" " admitted during the year	51	47	98
Whole number during the year	90	84	174
Discharged, including deaths - - -	40	36	76
Remaining May 31, 1846 - - -	56	42	98
Of the patients discharged there were cured	16	10	26
Died - - - - -	6	5	11

"The average number of patients has been about twenty per cent. greater than last year; while the number discharged has been nearly equal. The number of admissions has exceeded that of last year. These results have been owing to the greater readiness of the friends of the suffering insane to grant an extended trial of the benefits of the asylum, as well as the more confirmed public sentiment of its utility."



The asylum was opened in Oct. 1842. Since that time 376 patients have been admitted and 112 cured.

Dr. McFarland gives the following account of the appearance and progress of variola in the institution. "On the 9th of January, with a household, including officers, patients, and attendants, of 125 persons, a case of small-pox made its appearance in the gallery occupied by the better class of patients. Fortunately, its character was detected on the first appearance of the eruption, and an opportunity afforded for immediate precautionary measures. The affected person was removed to the new building, and an express messenger dispatched to the health office, Boston, who returned the same day with a supply of pure vaccine virus. Thorough vaccination, with the isolation of the affected cases, prevented the disastrous consequences which must otherwise have ensued from a disease of so much malignity, under circumstances so favourable to its extension.

"The individual first afflicted died on the twelfth day of the disease. His case was of the confluent kind, and no hope of his recovery could be entertained from the first inception of the malady.

"Seven cases followed, as the result of the one just mentioned. Two of these proved fatal, which would probably have terminated otherwise but for the previous existence of exhausting bodily infirmity.

"After being free from all appearance of the disease in the asylum for more than two months, it again made its appearance in an infirm old woman of 70, in whom it terminated fatally. How the disease could have originally introduced itself is a subject of some mystery. The first individual afflicted had visited the village two weeks prior to the attack, or a period just sufficient for incubation to take place, which renders it highly probable that the disease was contracted at that time, though no well authenticated case then existed in Concord.

"It speaks well for the character of those employed as assistants in the asylum, that in a season eminently calculated to spread consternation among those of the stoutest heart, none abandoned their post of duty; and several who were absent when the disease made its appearance, returned and resumed their places, when all were filled with gloomy forebodings.

"Exertions, such as nothing but the existence of such a calamity could have called for, were not without ill consequences upon the health of our household; and the month of February closed upon us with the assistant physician and five of the attendants wholly or in part disabled by sickness."

Much of the remainder of the report is occupied with judicious remarks upon insanity, its causes and treatment; but as similar views of the subject have heretofore been presented, it is unnecessary to exhibit them at this time.

P. E.

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ART. XXVI.—*Human Physiology; with three hundred and sixty-eight illustrations.* By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., &c. &c. Sixth Edition, greatly improved. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 651–694. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1846.

It is not always that a new edition of even a scientific work can with propriety be termed an improved edition. Not unfrequently each successive edition is printed from the same stereotype plates, the only change being in the title-page and perhaps the preface. Such is not, however, the case with the work before us; each edition has been carefully revised, and everything of importance that had been recorded since the appearance of the preceding edition embodied in it, so that the last will be found invariably to be on a level with the then existing state of physiological science.

As a text book for students the work of Dr. Dunglison will always maintain its place among the numerous very excellent manuals of physiology, that have recently appeared; and for those out of the profession who desire to become acquainted with the organization and functions of the human body, it is perhaps better adapted as a guide than many of its cotemporaries. But the work is too well known to require any extended notice of its peculiar merits on the present occasion—we need only remark that the present edition exhibits the same care in